

CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
San Antonio Fire Department
MEMORANDUM

TO: SAFD and DSD Associates
FROM: Abel Flores, Fire Marshal
DATE: June 9, 2006
FILE: Code Interpretation Manual

INTERPRETATION NUMBER: CI2006-022

TITLE: Determining When Fire Alarm System Permits Are Required
CODE EDITION: 2003 International Fire Code (IFC) as adopted by the City of San Antonio
SECTION: 105.7.3
PURPOSE: To provide clarification to the requirements of Section 105.7.3, and to provide a clear distinction between those items which constitute repair and maintenance functions, and those items, which constitute installation and modification functions resulting in the need to apply for a construction permit.

QUESTION : The 2003 Edition of the International Fire Code Section 105.7.3 states that "A construction permit is required for installation of or modification to fire alarm and detection systems and related equipment. Maintenance performed in accordance with this code is not considered a modification and does not require a permit." When applying this section which typical fire alarm functions are classified as installation and which are classified as maintenance?

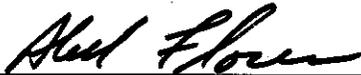
ANSWER: Installation functions, which require a permit are as follows:

1. Installation of an entirely new fire alarm system.
2. Remodel of an existing fire alarm system that involves the installation of new initiating devices or notification appliances.
3. Installation of an elevator recall control and supervisory system and or the remodel of an existing elevator recall control and supervisory system.
4. Installation of a sprinkler supervisory system and or the remodel of an existing sprinkler supervisory system.

5. Modification of an existing fire alarm system to include, the addition of new system devices, which are not initiating devices or notification appliances. These modifications include the addition of a digital alarm communicator transmitter to upgrade a local system to a remote supervising station system, the addition of accessory modules and or software to the fire alarm system to enhance system functions. (Examples: Addition of a Fire Rated Cell Backup. Modification of the existing fire alarm system program software that will alter the sequence of operations of the system)
6. Replacement of an existing fire alarm control panel with an entirely new or upgraded fire alarm control panel. (Note: Replacement of existing initiating devices in place to resolve compatibility issues is considered part of the fire alarm control panel replacement project)

Maintenance and repair functions which, do not require a permit are as follows:

1. Replacement of a motherboard or central processor unit that has been damaged or has been rendered non functional.
2. Replacement of any accessory modules or boards that have been damaged or have been rendered non functional.
3. Replacement of any remote power supplies that have been damaged or have been rendered non functional.
4. Replacement of any initiating devices or notification appliances that have been damaged or have been rendered non functional.
5. Replacement of fire alarm system firmware not involving a modification of the fire alarm system program software that will alter the sequence of operations of the system.
6. Repair and or replacement of fire alarm system wiring that will render all or part of the fire alarm system inoperable.



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